

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1-18 cancelled

19. (new) A cotton swab for cosmetic or medical purposes or for body care, the swab comprising:

a stick; and

a fiber material forming a cotton head at at least one end of the stick, the fiber material comprising micro staple fibers of at least 7mm in length.

20. (new) The cotton swab of claim 19, wherein the micro staple fibers are polyester (PES) or viscose fibers.

21. (new) The cotton swab of claim 19, wherein a portion of micro staple fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 3 to 50 weight %.

22. (new) The cotton swab of claim 21, wherein a portion of micro staple fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 30 weight %.

23. (new) The cotton swab of claim 22, wherein a portion of micro staple fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 20 weight %.

24. (new) The cotton swab of claim 19, wherein said fiber material additionally comprises up to 97 weight % of cotton fibers.

25. (new) The cotton swab of claim 24, wherein said fiber material additionally comprises up to 60 to 97 weight % of cotton fibers.
26. (new) The cotton swab of claim 25, wherein said fiber material additionally comprises up to 70 to 95 weight % of cotton fibers.
27. (new) The cotton swab of claim 24, wherein said cotton fibers are cotton noils.
28. (new) The cotton swab of claim 19, wherein said fiber material comprises thermally meltable binding fibers.
29. (new) The cotton swab of claim 28, wherein a portion of said thermally meltable binding fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 20 weight %.
30. (new) The cotton swab of claim 29, wherein a portion of said thermally meltable binding fibers compared to a mass of said fiber material is 5 to 15 weight %.
31. (new) The cotton swab of claim 28, wherein said thermally meltable binding fibers are multi-component fibers or bi-component fibers.
32. (new) The cotton swab of claim 31, wherein said multi-component fibers have a fiber thickness of 1.3 to 10 dtex.
33. (new) The cotton swab of claim 32, wherein said multi-component fibers have a fiber thickness of 1.3 to 3 dtex.
34. (new) The cotton swab of claim 31, wherein said multi-component fibers have a fiber length of 3 to 60 mm.

35. (new) The cotton swab of claim 28, wherein said binding fibers are copolyester (CO-PES) / polyester (PES) bi-component fibers.
36. (new) The cotton swab of claim 31, wherein a melting point of said thermally meltable binding fibers or of a low melting component of said multi-component fibers is lower than a melting point of said micro staple fibers.
37. (new) The cotton swab of claim 19, wherein a removal resistance of said fiber material from said end of said stick is larger than 30N.
38. (new) The cotton swab of claim 37, wherein a removal resistance of said fiber material from said end of said stick is larger than 40N.
39. (new) The cotton swab of claim 19, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 3 seconds.
40. (new) The cotton swab of claim 39, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 3.4 seconds.
41. (new) The cotton swab of claim 40, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 4 seconds.
42. (new) The cotton swab of claim 40, wherein a sinking duration of said fiber material in an aqueous solution is at least 4.5 seconds.
43. (new) The cotton swab of claim 19, wherein a water retaining capacity of said fiber material is at least 21 g/g (g liquid per g fiber material).

44. (new) The cotton swab of claim 43, wherein a water retaining capacity of said fiber material is at least 23 g/g (g liquid per g fiber material).
45. (new) The cotton swab of claim 19, wherein said fiber material contains a softener.
46. (new) The cotton swab of claim 19, wherein said fiber material forming said cotton head is produced from a fiber fleece or a fiber fleece strip having a specific weight of 0.5 to 8 g/m.
47. (new) The cotton swab of claim 46, wherein said fiber material forming said cotton head is produced from a fiber fleece or a fiber fleece strip having a specific weight of 1 to 2 g/m.
47. (new) The cotton swab of claim 46, wherein said fiber fleece or the fiber fleece strip is a card fleece which is oriented in a machine direction.